News-Pages of the GSWC

The Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County, Michigan, Inc. 2 October 2020
To Accompany *Family History Capers* Vol. 44 #1

GSWC Meetings are usually held at 1:30 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of the month, September to May (unless a holiday interferes). Currently we are meeting via Zoom for the health and safety of our members. We are asking everyone to register ahead of time to assist with tracking attendance. **Check our website for information about registering or changes in venue: https://www.washtenawgenealogy.org. or our Facebook page located at: https://www.facebook.com/genealogywashtenaw.**

Upcoming Meetings Fall 2020/Winter 2021:

Sunday, October 25, 2020: "Scotch-Irish Research" presented by Derek Blount. **Class: "Genealogy Webinars and Podcasts"** presented by Omer Jean Winborn and Sharon Brevoort.

Sunday, November 22, 2020: "Windmills and Wooden Shoes: Dutch Research" presented by Megan Heyl. **Class: "Colorizing Black and White Digital Photographs"** presented by Mike Christiaens and Mike Gerding.

Sunday, January 24, 2021: "Researching Revolutionary America" presented by Dr. John G. McCurdy. **Class: "Black Loyalists in the Revolutionary War"** presented by Cheryl Garnett.

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Report on Recent Meetings:

September 27, 2020: "Britain to Canada to Michigan" presented by Jessica Trotter. This was a popular migration route from the 1830s up to 1950. Michigan was a draw for migration due to the Homestead Act of 1862, the furniture industry in Grand Rapids, and the auto industry. British citizens could "immigrate" to Canada without leaving British territory. After the War of 1812, Britain also gave inducements to military personnel to settle in Upper Canada (Ontario). Main settlers during this time were Scottish, Protestant Irish and famine refugees.

Many American records can be helpful in locating Canadian ancestors who came to Michigan. Among them are naturalizations, vital records, local histories, Detroit border crossings, passenger arrival lists, and employment records. American, British and Canadian vital records and census records can be found on ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, and Findmypast.com. Matching names and occupations between the different countries' census records can be a rewarding method of tracking ancestors.

One of the most important sources of Canadian Records is the Library and Archives of Canada, both on-line and in person. Important records include land records, newspapers, periodicals, passenger lists, and military records. British records include military warrants, land petitions, muster lists and officer service records. Some of this information can be found at The National Archives at Kew. Reported by Tim Salatin

Class: "Effective Search Techniques for Genealogy" presented by Mary Henderson. Mary Henderson, who is the GSWC treasurer, and proprietor of a genealogy consulting business Genetic Genealogy Research, LLC, gave a very interesting presentation on search modifiers. When you start a search, you can use the following modifiers: **AND** means **both** search words; **OR** means **either** search word; **NOT** means **exclude** the following word (some sites use the minus sign); enclosed in **QUOTATION MARKS** means find the **exact phrase**; enclosed in **PARENTHESES** means **prioritize search** for this first; **WILDCARDS** (typically an asterisk) **represent a variable character, word, or phrase.**

Note that search modifiers can vary from site to site. It is important to be aware of what specific search operators are utilized by the site you are searching. For instance, some may use a question mark "?" as a wildcard for a single character; some use the pipe symbol "|" to mean **OR**. (On some keyboards, the pipe symbol is the key under the backspace but shifted.)

You should start broad, then narrow your search. Use a range of dates, even when you know the actual date. Some, like the census, approximate the year.

Mary's handout from the class is available on the GSWC website, under "Public Downloads"

"Class Handouts." Reported by Marcia McCrary

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GSWC Items:

The next **GSWC Board Meeting** is Tuesday, October 13, 2020, 2 to 4 p.m., which will be a virtual meeting on Zoom. For more information on the agenda and how to attend, send an email to Nancy Howard: president@washtenawgenealogy.org.

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The next meeting of the **DNA Special Interest Group** will be a Zoom meeting. Contact GSWC member Rodger Wolf at rawolf@umich.edu if you are not on their mailing list but would like to attend.

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This summer we formed several **Zoom groups**, which have the possibility of becoming additional **Special Interest Groups.** The invitation to be part of the German Special Interest Group was sent out this week. The Techniques Group is planning another meeting, with Omer Jean Winborn as leader and the New York Group will soon be organizing. We also had a very small New Jersey Group. There are "Scots Irish" and "Migrations" groups yet to meet. Contact info@washtenawgenealogy.org if you have questions, or would like to join any of these groups.

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Wanted: Volunteers are needed to keep this organization healthy! We currently have an open position for **Assistant Librarian**: Responsibilities include orienting to Library functions; indexing collections recently donated to the GSWC Library. Please contact Nancy Howard: president@washtenawgenealogy.org for details.

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As genealogists, we focus on the past. As a genealogical society, we focus on the past, present and future. As a living organization, change is inevitable, sometimes uncomfortable, but necessary to stay healthy.

A year ago, we scheduled Katherine Willson to speak on the 1918 Influenza Pandemic. She presented this talk at our February 23rd meeting. It would be the last in-person meeting we would have for the foreseeable future.

As genealogists, we have seen major strides in technology that have furthered our research efforts. More and more records, documents, maps, photographs, and ephemera are being digitized and made available online. Technology in the area of genetics now helps us find or confirm relatives we may never knew we had.

Technology and willingness to learn different ways of doing things plays a large role in GSWC. Our Board started holding its regular meetings on Zoom in July. The Program and Education Committee has been working on transitioning from two committees to one since March of this year. Another major transition is hosting our general membership meetings on Zoom, switching from live presentations and classes at St. Joe's.

Did I mention that our beloved president of 26 years(!), Marcia McCrary, has stepped down? Thankfully, she is still very involved and spending significant time orienting the new president. Tim Salatin stepped down (after eight years) as First Vice President and as chair of the Program Committee. Again, we are thankful that Tim is still very involved and helping transition the new combined committee, now chaired by Second Vice President Rodger Wolf. The new team also includes Mike Gerding, Ron Loveless, Marcia McCrary, Sheila Most, Omer Jean Winborn and Mary Yamamoto.

I would like to thank everyone mentioned so far, as well as those continuing to serve as volunteers to keep this terrific organization running. There are still a number of positions that need filling. Do you have some time to give back to this valuable community resource?

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